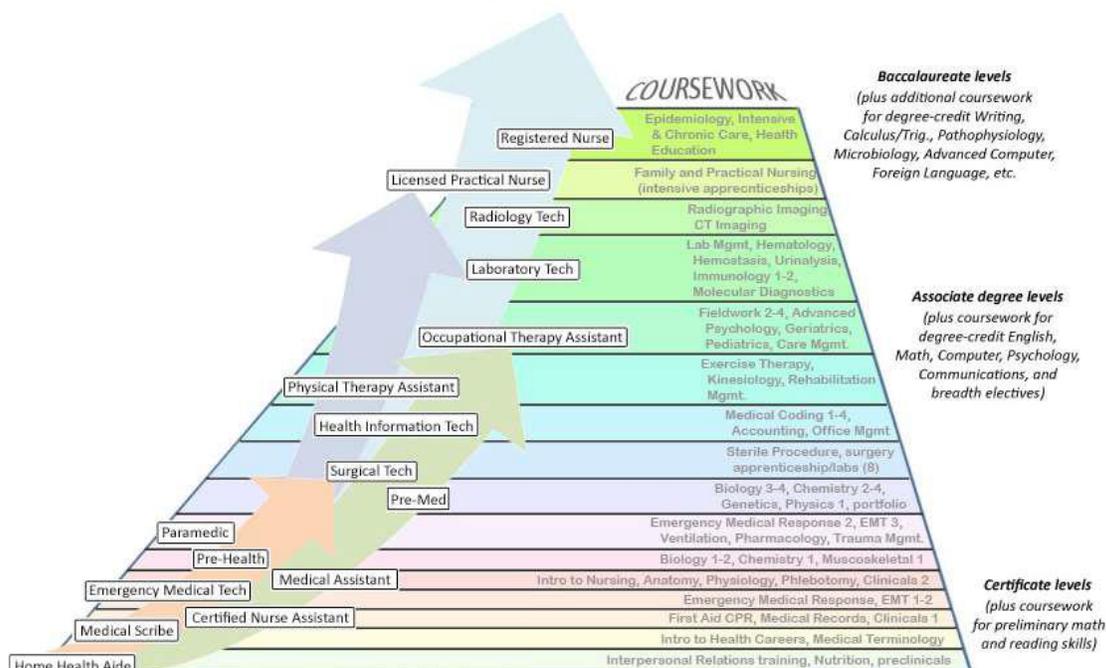




Ute Mountain Learning Center HPOG Program



The **Health Professionals Opportunity Grant Program (or HPOG)** is a set of trainings and coachings to help Native Americans get into good-paying healthcare jobs. The medical field is among the fastest growing areas for employment in Colorado, especially in the southwest. Its potential for moving workers up the earnings scale is strong. Jobs we are aiming to train for include: Home Health Aide, Medical Scribe, Certified Nurse Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Assistant, Paramedic, Surgical Tech, Health Information Tech, Physical or Occupational Therapy Assistant, Lab Tech, Licensed Practical Nurse, and Registered Nurse. The goal is to gain both a recognized certification and actual experience in a clinical setting, to ensure quick entry into regular, full-time employment.



This grant is awarded 2015-2020, from the federal Administration for Native Americans under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Its intent is to get more Native people in our area into working in professional, technical healthcare environments, and in turn build up the Tribal economy and families' wellbeing.

The students we seek are those who until now have struggled with low wages or had difficulty finding work to support their families. **TANF-registered clients are especially wanted.** Once students complete a healthcare certification, they may choose to (1) keep going for a higher certificate or degree at college or (2) be placed for an internship with a local employer, and in turn get a chance for a permanent position. Or students can do both.

The HPOG Project wants to recruit adult students who have a high school diploma, **OR WHO HAVEN'T completed a high school diploma.** If you are worried about your academic skills, don't be! The program offers abundant supports to build up reading, writing, and math skills, as well as trainings to help you succeed in college and the medical workplace. When students turn in their application they are assigned a case-worker, who then helps with setting a pathway for courses and work experience. A staff teacher

is also dedicated to tutor for the high-school diploma as needed. Once in class, each student will meet with his/her case-worker periodically to discuss plans, career interests, needs, and goals. Additional workshops required in the program include financial management skills, computer literacy, CPR/First Aid, and job-placement. **All students must pass a background check prior to entry in healthcare courses.**

There is no ceiling to accomplishment. Students who complete the “gateway” course (Certified Nurse Aide or Emergency Medical Responder) may keep going up the career ladder, with our affiliate college and university partners. Transportation assistance is available, and enrollment includes any required textbooks, tuition, and medical tools necessary for work.

The Ute Mountain HPOG program also now covers a regional geography serving low-income Native Americans—including Ignacio, Montezuma County, as well as Farmington (NM) and Blanding (UT)—besides its base in Towaoc and White Mesa. Satellite offices are available in each of these locations to assist with enrollment and orientation. They also host other activities and supports in combination with the Learning Center that can help students finish quickly and positively.

Each Year we are aiming to have 30-40 Native adults in the HPOG Project gain healthcare certifications. From October to September, students can take classes at their own pace—finishing quickly or bit by bit—and will have access to special field trips, college tours, medical expos, and employer visits to learn about new opportunities.

Feel free to ask questions! Any of our Learning Center staff will be glad to help and can connect you with a case-worker who can provide additional details.